

Appln No. 09/530,145

Amdt date September 29, 2003

Reply to Office action of June 27, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-24 are currently pending in this application. Claims 10-11 and 15-16 have been amended. Claims 19-24 have been added. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 10-24 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 10, 11, and 15 as allegedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 10, 11, and 15 have been amended to delete the phrase "such as" that is objected by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully respects withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

The Examiner rejects claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Saito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,523,696). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Saito discloses a packet filter that performs the function of a traditional firewall. (See, Col. 43, lines 13-14). Specifically, Saito describes that "[f]or the purpose of [] judgment processing, the packet filter 2208 has a packet filter table 2209 that registers source addresses of those packets that may pass through the AV connection device 220, for example, so that the packet filter 2208 allows a packet incoming from Internet 2101 to pass through when its source address is registered in this packet filter table 2209." (Col. 43, lines 21-27) (Emphasis added). Thus, judgment processing in Saito is based on an address that forms part of a header field.

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In marked contrast, claim 10 recites "judging means for judging, based on contents of said message field, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus." (Emphasis added). Claim 15 similarly recites "judging, based on contents of the message field of said communication data, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is the information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus." (Emphasis added). Claims 10 and 15 specify that the message field is "to be used at a receiving side after the communication based on said header field is completed." (Emphasis added). There is nothing in Saito that teaches or suggests that the disclosed packet filter filters packets based on the recited "message field." Accordingly, claims 10 and 15 are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 11, it recites "a message field including a command" and a gateway device "comprising: judging means for judging, based on said command, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus." (Emphasis added). Claim 16 similarly recites "a message field including a command" and a "method of gatewaying comprising the steps of: (a) judging, based on the command contained in the message field of said communication data, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is the information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus." (Emphasis added). There is nothing in

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Saito that teaches or suggests that the disclosed packet filter filters packets based on a command in a message field instead of a source address. Accordingly, claims 11 and 16 are also in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 12, it recites a "storage means for storing the information that is judged by said judging means to be the information that should be transmitted." The Examiner relies on Saito's packet filter table for the storage means. However, Saito's packet filter table simply "registers source addresses of those packets that may pass through the AV connection device." (Col. 43, lines 21-26). It does not store "the information that is judged by said judging means to be the information that should be transmitted," as is recited in claim 12.

Claim 12 also recites a "filtering means for comparing the information stored in said storage means with newly received information which is of the same kind as said stored information and is judged by said judging means to be the information that should be transmitted and, when their contents differ, transmitting said received information to said other communication bus while, at the same time, storing said received information in said storage means." (Emphasis added). Nothing in Saito teaches or suggests that the packet filter table, which the Examiner contends reads on the recited storage means, store "said received information in said storage means" upon "comparing the information stored in said storage means with newly received information which is of the same kind as said stored information and is judged by said judging means to be the

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information that should be transmitted" and determining that "their contents differ." Accordingly, claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 13-14 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations contained therein.

Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Kawano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,605). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Kawano discloses an apparatus for filtering multicast messages. "The filtering operation . . . may include the filtering operation based on the transmission destination address attached to the transmission data and the filtering operation based on information attached to the data and relating to conditions of judging reception or non-reception of data in the receiving computer . . . The term 'information relating to conditions of judging data reception or non-reception' refers particularly to the destination computer group address in communication to the group or the contents code indicative of the contents of transmission data in the contents code communication." (Col. 11, lines 27-38). The "judgment of whether or not each node receives the transmission data is carried out by comparing with the received contents code attached to the data." (Col. 12, lines 12-14).

In marked contrast, claim 17 recites "performing filtering whereby the information stored in said step (b) is compared with newly received information which is of the same kind as said stored information and is judged in said step (a) to be the

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information that should be transmitted and, when their contents differ, said received information is transmitted to said other communication bus while, at the same time, storing said received information in said step (b). (Emphasis added). First, there is nothing in Kawano that teaches or suggests "performing filtering whereby the information stored in said step (b) is compared with newly received information which is of the same kind as said stored information and is judged in said step (a) to be the information that should be transmitted." (Emphasis added). In Kawano, the comparison is done based on the contents code attached to the data, but not based on the data itself.

Second, there is nothing in Kawano that teaches or suggests that "when their contents differ, said received information is transmitted to said other communication bus while, at the same time, storing said received information in said step (b)." (Emphasis added). The Examiner relies on the contents code-added data storage memory of Kawano to contend that it discloses step (b) of "storing the information that is judged in said step (a) to be the information that should be transmitted." However, nothing in Kawano teaches or suggests that the code-added data storage memory store "said received information in said step (b)" upon comparing "the information stored in said step (b) . . . with newly received information which is of the same kind as said stored information and is judged in said step (a) to be the information that should be transmitted" and determining that "their contents differ." In fact, Kawano instructs that data be received only when the contents code matches the contents code registered in the contents code table. When no match is made,

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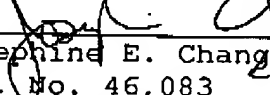
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the contends code selector in Kawano discards the contents of the frame. (See, Col. 10, lines 51-57; Col. 14, lines 41-48). Accordingly, claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-24 are new in this application. These claims are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations contained therein.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of claims 19-24.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Josephine E. Chang
Reg. No. 46,083
626/795-9900

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